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**June 20, 2003**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TERRE HAUTE MAN SENTENCED TO  
155 MONTHS IN PRISON IN METHAMPHETAMINE  
TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that BYRON SMITH, 31, Terre Haute, Indiana, was sentenced to 155 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Chief Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute and/or Distribute 500 Grams or More of Methamphetamine.

The charges in this case arose out of joint investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Indianapolis Police Department's Airport Drug Task Force (IIADTF), and the Vigo County Drug Task Force.

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SMITH-02

During the course of this investigation, law enforcement officers learned of a drug trafficking organization that consisted of residents of Terre Haute, Indiana. Members of the organization would travel by airplane from Indianapolis, Indiana to the Los Angeles, California area and obtain large amounts of methamphetamine. The methamphetamine would then be transported back to Indiana and ultimately redistributed in Terre Haute.

In November of 2000, law enforcement agents from the IIADTF arrested four members of the organization who had traveled from Indianapolis to Los Angeles and attempted to bring large amounts of methamphetamine back to Indiana. Michael Smith, the defendant's brother, was among those arrested by law enforcement. During the arrests, IIADTF seized nearly one kilogram of methamphetamine from Michael Smith's associates Sylvester Wilcox and Gary Wilford.

Further investigation revealed that beginning in February of 1999, anywhere from between two and six members of the organization would conceal large sums of U.S. currency on their person and take either an ATA or Southwest Airlines flight from Indianapolis to Los Angeles. Once in Los Angeles, large amounts of methamphetamine were obtained from Richard Murillo, a Los Angeles resident. After getting methamphetamine from Murillo, members of the organization would conceal the drugs on their bodies and "body carry" it back on a return flight to Indiana.

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BYRON SMITH-3

Byron Smith made several of these cross country trips with other members of the organization. He oftentimes carried large sums of U.S. currency, which Smith knew was the proceeds of methamphetamine sales, to Los Angeles in order to further the organization's goal of obtaining more methamphetamine.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Barry D. Glickman, who prosecuted the case for the government, Chief Judge McKinney imposed five years supervised release following SMITH's release from imprisonment.

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